definitely prolonged; it will be necessary for the National Assembly to vote a press statute which shall clearly establish the rights, the duties and the responsibilities of the newspapers and the journalists. The press statute will not serve the purpose of persecuting the press, but will oblige it to be scrupulous and to concern itself with cultural and moral aims.

I am convinced that a good newspaper is more useful than half a dozen schools, but also that a bad newspaper can produce more destruction than a cyclone. Consequently it is absurd to suggest that the Government should treat with the same impartiality or indifference these two sorts of newspapers. The duty of the Government is to use all the means and resources of the national activity to raise the material well-being and the moral and cultural standard of the people.

PORTUGAL—The Portuguese Government has decided not to accept an external loan from the League of Nations, as it has been unable to agree to the conditions of the Financial Committee.

Dr. Alvaro de Castro, former Portuguese Premier, who recently returned to Lisbon from political exile in Paris, died on June 29.

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALKANS

The Political Murders in Yugoslavia

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THE most tense of several strained situations in Southeastern Europe in the past four weeks has been in Yugoslavia, where the struggle over the ratification of the Nettuno conventions with Italy led, June 20, to the assassination of two Deputies and the wounding of four others, on the floor of the National Parliament, spreading excitement and consternation throughout the whole country.

The Nettuno agreements were signed July 20, 1925. On account of popular and press hostility to certain clauses regarded as favorable to Italy, their ratification at Belgrade has never been found possible. Of late Italy has been pressing for action, and in May it was reported that the Yugoslav Ministry had decided to try to bring matters to a conclusion. Rumors of this intention roused popular anti-Italian demonstrations, which, at the end of the month, led to feverish diplomatic interchanges between the two countries.

The difficulty was supposed to have been patched up in the first week of June, and on the 6th of the month Foreign Minister Marinkovitch, declaring that a careful re-examination of the conventions had convinced him that they were justifiable, announced that the Ministers were determined to present them to Parliament "with the least possible delay." At the very moment, however, when Premier Mussolini, on June 7, was acknowledging the propitiatory character of the Belgrade authorities' attitude, fresh demonstrations broke out; and on the 14th another preemptory note went forth from Rome demanding reparation for an attack on the Italian consulate at Sebenico. Two days later the conventions were formally submitted to the Skupstina, and M. Marinkovitch conferred with the Chamber's President with a view to seeing that the enemies of the agreements were not permitted to filibuster them out of an opportunity to be acted upon. On June 26 it was given out that not even the shooting affair in the Skupstina would be allowed to interfere with the Government's plans.

The Yugoslav National Assembly is not noted for its orderliness. Violence both of language and of action marks almost every session. But, fortunately, such things as happened during the sitting of June 20 do not often befall. In the course of a heated debate Punica Ratchitch, representative of a Serbian Radical district in the southern part of the country—though himself a Montenegrin—was charged by several Deputies with misappropriation of land in his constituency, and the discussion broadened into a sharp attack upon the Government generally. Among the accusing speakers was Paul Raditch, nephew of the widely

known Croat leader, Stefan Raditch. His remarks moved Ratchitch to rage, with the result that he drew a revolver, and, defying the whole Assembly, fired six shots, killing the younger Raditch and another Deputy, M. George Basaritchik, a noted writer and Vice President of the Croatian Peasant Party, and seriously wounding M. Stefan Raditch and three other members.

Needless to say, the occurrence stirred the country from one end to the other; and, since it arose out of the perennial hostility between the Serbs and Croats, it had the effect of intensifying the hatred between the two elements. When, for example, the Cabinet sent condolences to the Croat injured, the messages were returned, marked in red pencil "Not accepted!" The outbreaks in Zagreb and other Croat centres which were feared did not immediately materialize, but it was understood that the partisans of the elder Raditch were waiting to see what would be the outcome of his injury; and when, on the 21st, an erroneous report of his death was circulated in Zagreb, rioting broke out, in the course of which three civilians were killed and two score or more wounded. The funerals of the slain Deputies were, however, held in Zagreb on the following day without disorder. Meanwhile the assassin had surrendered, declaring that he had been moved to his desperate act by considerations of self-defense.

As the month passed, the nation anxiously watched the ebb and flow of M. Raditch's chances for life. It was felt that if he survived he would be able to hold his fellow-Croats in check, and might perhaps be disposed to make of the whole affair the starting point of a new and better era in Serbo-Croatian relations, but that, on the other hand, his death might loose passions that would drench the country in blood. Continued improvement in his condition gave opportunity for some serious thinking, and when, in the last week of June, King Alexander initiated a series of conferences, the outlook perceptibly brightened. On the 25th it was reported that the possibility of a concentration Cabinet to supplant the existing Radical-Democrat coalition was under discussion. The Croatian Party could in no way be induced to accept representation in it. In spite of all attempts on the part of the King to consolidate the triune kingdom, Premier Velya Vukitchevitch and his entire Cabinet resigned on July 4. M. Atsa Stanojevitch was requested by the King to form a new Cabinet, but before he began M. Raditch sent word that the Croatians would not join a concentration Government. King Alexander then asked M. Raditch to outline his demands, and the Croatian, M. Pribitchevitch, was sent to confer with the King, who appealed to M. Raditch himself to form a Cabinet. Again, Raditch refused to cooperate, demanding that Parliament be dissolved and elections held. Again the King consented and asked Raditch to head the election Government. Raditch refused, with the request that a neutral statesman be chosen for this. Thereupon the King ordered Zhivojin Balugtchitch, Yugoslavian Minister to Germany, to return to Belgrade to form a Cabinet. On July 8 M. Raditch left the Belgrade hospital and returned to Zagreb, where he was greeted with an ovation.

POLAND—"After Pilsudski, what?" is a question that has insistently claimed the attention of all Poland during recent weeks. Even in May, when the Premier-Dictator's serious illness removed his hand from the helm and prompted the radical and reactionary parties in the Sjem to withdraw their support, leaving the minority Government bloc helpless, the query was heard; and when, on June 27, he and his entire Cabinet rather abruptly resigned, the question became of all-absorbing interest. Largely recovered in health, the Premier resumed his duties on June 13, coming on the scene just in time to save the budget bill, which became law two days later. On the 23d, however, he closed both houses of the Diet; on the 26th he denounced his Ministerial colleagues so bitterly on the ground that they were "soft" and had allowed the Sjem to get the better of the Government, that most of them at once tendered their resignations, and on the next day Pilsudski himself resigned, carrying along his remaining erstwhile colleagues with him. Vice Premier Bartel became Premier, and most of the former Ministers reappeared in their old positions. Even Pilsudski returned to the Ministry of War. The new Government was expected to pur-

sue the same policies as the former one, and in political circles it was generally conceded that the Marshal would remain the real head.

Early in July it was reported that the reason for the Marshal's resignation was not alone the unsatisfactory state of his health, as had been officially given out, but a plan which he was maturing to reconstruct the Polish Government root and branch on lines similar to those prevailing in Italy. He was represented as disgusted with the parliamentary régime and bent on abolishing all popular elections of the customary sort. The Ministry, too, was said to be doomed; and the new plan was expected to be ready by Autumn.

HUNGARY—The St. Gothard affair—the controversy arising out of the discovery last New Year's Day of five carloads of disguised machine guns ostensibly on their way to Poland but suspected of being designed for Hungary—was officially settled on June 7, when the Council of the League of Nations expressed regret that the actual destination of the guns could not be ascertained, criticized Hungary for precipitately destroying the evidence, reiterated the full right of the Council to order an immediate investigation of any incident of the kind, thanked the committee that had inquired into the case, and dismissed the subject. The net result was, at best, nothing more effective than a warning to Hungary—and other States—against similar happenings in the future.

Action of the Council in another controversy in which Hungary is involved was only slightly less definitive. This is the long-standing quarrel with Rumania over lands in Transylvania sequestered by Rumania at the end of the war. This matter has been on the Council's agenda for some five years, and a plan of settlement has been repeatedly offered. At the Council's session in June a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the Council, while deeply regretting that the two States had failed to reach an agreement, and without wishing to exclude any other friendly arrangement, was of the opinion that the dispute ought to be settled by the parties themselves upon the basis which the Council had recommended.

One of the strangest dramas of post-war history approached its end a few weeks ago when Count Michael Karolyi, one-time Premier of Hungary, and once the richest man in the Balkans, was informed by telegraph that he had been judicially declared a pauper and admitted to the privileges of the poor law. The Count's extensive estates were confiscated by the Horthy Government in 1922 on the ground that he had been a traitor to the old Habsburg Government. He has ever since been endeavoring to recover them. Through friends he has announced that he will make no further efforts in this direction, but, on the other hand, that he will continue his endeavors to convince the world of his innocence. He has lately been reported to be in Mexico.

GREECE—As recorded in these pages last month, the veteran Greek statesman, Eleutherios Venizelos at the end of May emerged from two years and a half of retirement in Crete, and made known his intention once more to play an active rôle in his country's politics. Assuming leadership of the Liberal Party (in succession to Finance Minister Kafandaris), he forced the Royalist elements to declare their policy and manoeuvred them into a position where they cannot do much but keep quiet for a good while to come. Near the end of June he inspired a Cabinet crisis by denouncing the financial measures of the Government and causing the Liberal Party to withdraw its support. Kafandaris forthwith resigned as Finance Minister—the second time he had done so within the month. The crisis proved prolonged, and events moved in a direction which, it was generally believed, would mean a return of Venizelos himself to the Premiership. No stable government, he urged upon President Kondouriotis, could be formed with the existing party alignment in Parliament, and on that ground he urged an immediate dissolution. The Royalist elements, however, opposed the plan.

A strike of tobacco workers in various Greek cities and towns in the middle of June threatened at one stage to develop into a general strike, but failed to do so. Workers' organizations in the various industries were unable to agree upon concerted action. The feared naval mutiny at Mitylene and elsewhere also failed to materialize.